

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday the 14th day of March 1922, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar Avargal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Sub-registrars.

1365 Q.—MR. A. D. M. BAVOTTI SAHIB : With reference to the question 1212 (a), (b) & (d) regarding sub-registrars put by me, and the reply given on 21st January 1922, will the Hon'ble the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state whether the information called for has been received from the Inspector-General, and, if so, to lay the same on the table?

A.—Yes; a statement containing the information is laid on the table.*

Communal representation in the Upper grade sub-registrars in Malabar.

1366 Q.—MR. A. D. M. BAVOTTI SAHIB : Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state—

(a) how many sub-registrars there are at present in the upper grade in the district of Malabar;

(b) among them how many are Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians; and

(c) whether among the Mappilla sub-registrars there is any one in the upper grade?

A.—The Member is referred to the list of officers published.

Relief work in Malabar.

1367 Q.—MR. K. P. GOPALA MENON : Will the Hon'ble the Home Member be pleased to state what specific relief the Government have given or propose to give to the distressed inhabitants in the taluks affected by the Mappilla outbreak in Malabar—

(a) by way of compensation;

(b) by way of temporary help; and

(c) by way of remission of Government dues?

[14th March 1922

- A.—(a) The Government are advised that the State is under no legal obligation to compensate private persons for losses incurred as a result of the rebellion. They are however prepared as a matter of grace to assist persons who have incurred such losses in the reconstruction of their affairs. The proceeds of all magisterial and judicial fines imposed on rebels are being ear-marked for the purpose. Should it be found possible and expedient to impose a fine under section 9 of the Mappilla Outrages Act, 1859, the first charge upon the amount levied will be the compensation of persons who have suffered. The question of imposing such a fine is now under examination.
- (b) Temporary relief is being afforded under a scheme drawn up under the Agriculturists Loans Act. The details of the scheme are contained in G.O. No. 173, Public, dated 23rd February 1922, which has been laid on the editors' table.
- (c) It has been found that there is no need for any general remission of Government dues. Orders have been issued that the collection of revenue should proceed as far as possible, but that no distraint should be carried out without the orders of the Revenue Divisional Officer who should satisfy himself that the case is not one in which a suspension of the collection is called for.

Committee to enquire into the distressed condition of Mappilla women and children.

1368 Q.—MR. T. C. TANGAVELU PILLAI: Will the Hon'ble the Home Member be pleased

(i) to state—

(a) whether the Committee appointed to report on the distressed condition of Mappilla women and children have submitted their report;

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay it on the table; and

(c) the places visited by the members of the said Committee and the number of witnesses examined; and

(ii) to lay on the table the evidence recorded by the Committee?

A.—The Committee was appointed by the Special Commissioner for Malabar Affairs with the object of eliciting information to help the local relief committee. It has submitted no report to the Government, but the Government understand that the Special Commissioner has communicated the purport of its findings to the local relief committee for such action as may be necessary. The Government are not in a position to lay papers on the table, but they understand that the Committee visited twenty-five places and examined eighty-two witnesses.